

FACT SHEET

STATE ADVISORY PANEL ON SPECIAL EDUCATION GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—MAYOR’S ORDER 2007—246

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the State Advisory Panel on Special Education for the District of Columbia

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 34 §300.167—§300.169 requires each state to establish and maintain an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State. The District of Columbia’s advisory panel is entitled the “State Advisory Panel on Special Education for the District of Columbia” (SAP).

What is the State Advisory Panel on Special Education?

The State Advisory Panel on Special Education (SAP) advises the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) Department of Special Education (DSE) in its role as the State Education Agency (SEA) about the unmet needs of children with disabilities.

SAP may publicly comment on policies, rules, or regulations proposed by the OSSE regarding the education of children with disabilities. It may also advise the OSSE on developing the State Performance Plan (SPP) and the Annual Performance Report (APR).

SAP may also undertake other duties assigned by the Mayor, the OSSE or as required by federal law.

What role does the State Education Agency (SEA) have with the SAP?

OSSE provides administrative, technical support and coordination assistance. OSSE shares relevant and current information to panel members, reports progress on indicators from the State Performance Plan, supports the panel in carrying out its functions and reports on performance of students with disabilities.

Who can serve as a member on the panel?

The panel shall consist of at least twenty-one (21) voting members who are appointed by the Mayor. The panel includes parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26); individuals with disabilities; teachers; and others who represent State and Local education officials; institutions of higher education; administrators of programs for children with disabilities; DC Public, Private or Charter schools; state juvenile and adult correction agencies, and others as specified by IDEA.

How do you apply to serve on the Panel?

District of Columbia residents may apply for an appointment to the State Advisory Panel by completing the Office of Boards and Commissions (OBC) Application for Mayoral Appointment to a Board or Commission. A potential candidate may also complete the form online. To obtain a copy of the application or to complete it online, visit the OBC website at www.obc.dc.gov.

It is recommended that you review background information on the committees and submit a résumé and/or biography along with the completed application.

Are members paid for serving on the panel?

As a general rule, members of boards and commissions are volunteers and serve without compensation.

Who can attend the meetings?

SAP meetings are open to the public. Should you wish to make an announcement; please contact the SAP Chair or the State Advisory Panel Coordinator regarding your request.

How often does the SAP meet?

The panel is required to meet at least four times a year. The District's SAP meets monthly and the calendar is posted on the OSSE website. To view the calendar, visit www.osse.dc.gov. A link to the State Advisory Panel is located under General Information.

How can I learn about SAP activities?

The SAP prepares an annual report of its activities and recommendations on or by July 1 of each calendar year. It is posted on the OSSE website and available upon request.

Who do I contact for more information?

You may contact Desirée Brown, State Advisory Panel Coordinator/Public Outreach Specialist at 202-741-0271 or by e-mail at desiree.brown@dc.gov.